

BROOKLINE PLANNING BOARD
CIP PUBLIC MEETING
Wednesday, January 15, 2014 – 8:30 a.m.

Board Present:

Mark Zarrillo, Linda Hamlin, Robert Cook, Steve Heikin, Steve Kanen, Sergio Modigliani, Jonathan Simpson,

Town Department Staff Present:

Sean Cronin, Deputy Town Administrator
Lisa Paradis, Recreation Director
Paul Ford, Fire Chief
Andy Pappastergion, Commissioner of Public Works
Peter Ditto, Director of Engineering and Transportation
Erin Chute Gallentine, Director of Parks and Open Space
Todd Kirrane, Transportation Administrator
Fred Russell, Director of Water and Sewer
Greer Hardwicke, Preservation Planner
Joe Viola, Assistant Director for Community Planning
Andy Martineau, Economic Development Planner
Greer Hardwicke, Preservation Planner

Materials Provided to the Board:

Overview of FY '15-'20 Preliminary CIP, dated 12/10/13, from Deputy Town Administrator Sean Cronin
CIP Memorandum, dated 12/16/13, from Sean Cronin to Brookline Planning Board
CIP Policy Overview
CIP Project Descriptions
CIP Spreadsheet

Mark Zarrillo opened the CIP public meeting at approximately 8:30 am. Mark excused himself to attend another public meeting. Sean Cronin was present to provide an overview of the Town's CIP process and funding policy. He noted that the CIP reflects the B-SPACE committee's "expand-in-place" recommendations for addressing future classroom capacity issues. This recommendation includes a debt exclusion override for the Devotion School renovations, which makes funds available for expanding the Driscoll School and planning for the High School. The formula also utilizes \$1M in overlay surplus funding and 35% funding from MSBA for each school project. Sergio Modigliani noted that the costs for the Driscoll School project have increased due in part to more accurate construction cost estimates. There was a brief discussion of how certain items in the CIP are prioritized or shifted to other fiscal years; how school projects are staged and prioritized to fit within the CIP; and policies related to capital improvements, and operational costs.

Planning and Community Development

Joe Viola gave a brief overview of Village Square Circulation Improvements, including removing a dilapidated pedestrian bridge. Joe noted that this project is funded via a combination of CDGB, State and private funds. Joe explained that while the Town expects CDGB funds to continue to decline, he anticipates level funding over the next three-year period. Additionally, any funding cuts would likely be minor, therefore not impacting the feasibility of the project. The project is scheduled coordinate with construction at Brookline Place, improvements to the Emerald Necklace parks as well as Gateway East which is on the FY '15 TIP.

There was a brief discussion about prioritizing Planning and Community Development CIP projects to anticipate future development along the Route 9 corridor in an effort to alleviate future CIP pressures as well as to address traffic and pedestrian concerns. Andy Martineau noted that the Department has already begun discussions about long term planning for Route 9 as well as the future build out of large parcels of land. Andy also noted that in addition to preserving their attractiveness, many of EDAB's recommendations on enhancing the vibrancy of our commercial areas depend on continued CIP funding for improvements. The Planning Board agreed unanimously that Staff should begin planning efforts for the Route 9 corridor sooner rather than later.

Public Safety:

Fire Chief, Ford noted that his department has adjusted the location of apparatus, thus saving \$1M. Chief Ford also explained that his department is focused on improving their fleet at a reduced cost via the utilization of a single manufacturer for new apparatus and repairs to existing equipment. Chief Ford also noted that the Department would benefit from having their own maintenance facility that would provide a safer environment for internal repairs and would also reduce the amount of time apparatus are offline. There was a brief discussion about a repair center possibly serving as an additional source of revenue for the Town, if it were to repair apparatus from other municipalities. There was also a discussion about insuring that the purchase of new apparatus does not result in the need to build new stations as the trucks continue to get larger.

Recreation

Lisa Paradis gave an overview of the three CIP items that have been put off for some time, including renovations to the Kirrane swimming pool, improvements to the municipal golf course, as well as improvements to the Tappan Street Gym. Lisa noted that the pool renovations will take it off-line for approximately six weeks and that in the past they have partnered with area facilities to minimize disruptions. Lisa also explained that drainage on the 9th hole of the golf course has improved dramatically and that they are focusing on improvements to the club house and cart paths. There was a brief discussion about the golf course being 100% self-sustaining, as well as the extent to which school expansion projects might impact the Tappan St. gym.

Department of Public Works

Todd Kirrane gave a brief overview of a project to improve bicycle access along Cypress and School Streets, which includes striping bike lanes and sharrows. Todd noted that this project does not result in a loss of parking and is the product of recommendations made by the Town's Bicycle and Transportation Advisory Committees. There was a brief discussion about the impact bike lanes have on safety and the possibility of monitoring the outcome of such improvements.

Todd Kirrane gave an overview a project that would give MBTA green line trains signal priority along Beacon Street. Todd noted that this project is the result of a Town Meeting resolution to examine the matter. Additionally, Boston is currently looking into signal priority in other areas as the new MBTA Administration has made this issue a priority. Todd also explained that the technology has improved and now involves wireless transmitters installed on trolley cars and signal boxes.

Peter Ditto gave an overview of street rehabilitation and sidewalk repair projects. The street rehab project involves leveraging results from a recently completed study of the Town's road conditions. The goal of the project is to improve road construction processes and the Town's pavement index resulting in more rehabilitation instead of reconstruction. Peter noted that his division selects 10-15 streets each year for repairs ranging from basic patches to total rehabilitation. There was a brief discussion about permit fees

for utilities and other organizations that dig up Town roads, compromising their integrity. Andy P. noted that they try to coordinate road maintenance with outside utilities whenever possible. Peter noted that they repair 3-5 miles of sidewalk each year.

Andy Pappastergion gave an overview of a project to replace the Town street lights with LED lights. Andy explained that the RFP process resulted in the identification of 1-2 companies that manufacture the lights with wireless control system. However, the wireless control option proved to be more expensive than anticipated resulting in the purchase of new LED fixtures which can be retrofitted with wireless controls later on. These lights will provide rebates from NSTAR and an annual energy savings of \$250K once the program is fully implemented.

Peter Ditto gave an overview of projects to cap the rear section of the Newton St. Landfill and to repave the Centre Street parking lot. Peter noted that capping the rest of the landfill will allow for the construction of a new DPW operations area and provide more space for DPW staff to stage operations. Peter also noted that they are planning for the rehabilitation of the Centre St. parking lot, but are trying to coordinate with the theatre expansion.

Erine Chute Gallentine gave an overview of various projects aimed at keeping the parks in good working condition and prolonging the useful life of playground equipment. Erin also noted that her division will also be rehabilitating the grounds surrounding schools and other Town buildings as well as removing and replacing trees. Additionally, Parks and Open Space will be making improvements to the Walnut Hills Cemetery roadway, as well as continuing to work with the Friends of Brookline Skaters to develop criteria and elements for a future skate park.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.